

is unsatisfactory, especially given the gap between military pay and their civilian counterparts is currently at an all-time high.

The reality is that many of our U.S. servicemembers and their families must serve 3 years and gain the rank of E4 before they can be at or above most States' minimum wage. This is also based on the assumption that they are working only 40 hours a week, which we all know is not true. Most servicemembers are actually working 50 to 60 hours per week, given the current operational tempo worldwide.

We should never have to discuss food insecurities for those protecting our security, but the reality is that we have a significant percentage of servicemembers and their families who actually qualify for food stamps. This is unacceptable. We should start by paying them an adequate amount of base pay and avoid the burden of food stamps for our military.

Earlier this year, during committee markup of the FY22 Defense appropriations bill, I offered an amendment that would ensure that all servicemembers make the equivalent of \$15 an hour, or \$31,200 a year, in base pay. These are not seismic numbers. These are not numbers we, as a Nation, cannot afford.

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When considering the 2.7 percent pay increase included in the FY22 NDAA, we must realize that this would still leave many servicemembers below that \$15 minimum that I advocated for in July. Not to mention, the 2.7 percent pay increase actually falls below the current inflation rate, so they are actually losing ground relative to current prices. It also fails to keep pace with servicemembers' pay relative to their civilian counterparts.

If we want to attract and retain the requisite skill sets and warriors needed in a complex battle space against a threat like China, we need to be willing to pay our troops a living wage. In the grand scheme of things, this pay raise for our enlisted ranks is extremely affordable. It not only pays for our servicemembers and their families, but also deepens and solidifies our Nation's security. This is a priceless return on a relatively small investment.

While the amendment I offered to the FY22 NDAA bill was not included in the final bill, I secured a commitment from Defense Subcommittee Chairwoman BETTY MCCOLLUM that she would create a working group to find a way to address the necessary military pay raise in conference negotiations with the Senate, and I appreciate the Chairwoman's willingness to work with me on this issue.

Let me be clear: While the FY22 NDAA is not perfect and it does not properly raise our military's pay, I plan to support the overall bill as it does make important strides to provide a large majority of the necessary funding and, frankly, the initiatives that

our Nation's military needs. I also promise to continue to work on ensuring our servicemembers receive the pay raises that they actually deserve.

After 20 years of unprecedented deployment cycles during the global war on terror, now is the time to invest in our precious servicemembers and their families who provide our beautiful nation its security blanket on a daily basis. \$15 an hour or \$31,000 a year is a reasonable minimum base salary for our troops.

DOLLY PARTON AND THE HOT FERC SUMMER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to declare for now the end of Hot FERC Summer.

Sixty-four days ago I kicked off Hot FERC Summer with Megan Thee Stallion and then Fergie to elevate the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's critical role in solving the climate crisis, and to urge the White House to nominate a fifth FERC commissioner.

Some, even in this Chamber, have lamented the bad dad jokes and puns, and many have asked what does this have to do with climate change?

Here's the thing. For far too long we have just used FERC's mind and we never gave them credit. And, frankly, allowing the most important Federal agency to fight climate change to continue to go unnoticed and short staffed, well, that would have driven me crazy, if I had let it.

I am thrilled to report that the President has embraced that Hot FERC Summer spirit and nominated Willie Phillips, taking us one step closer to restoring FERC to its full strength, enabling us to make this transition to clean energy at the pace the climate crisis demands.

Those commissioners and their hard-working, underappreciated staff, they are FERCalicious.

But they can't start working yet, and that is why today I am calling on my Senate colleagues to prioritize the confirmation hearings for Mr. Phillips so that he can start FERCing 9 to 5.

You see, when you tumble out of bed and stumble to the kitchen, pour yourself a cup of that ambition, your alarm clock, the lights, the hot coffee, they are in part, in no small part, thanks to the folks at FERC who are working to ensure that robust transmission system that we take for granted every day.

And when you jump in the shower hot enough that your blood starts pumping and drive out to the street before the traffic starts jumping, the charging networks for all those electric vehicles that stay cheap and reliable are also thanks to the folks FERCing 9 to 5.

FERCing 9 to 5, what a way to save the planet. We will not slow down this

rapid acceleration of devastating wildfires, hurricanes, heat waves and blackouts that have already impacted one in three Americans this summer until we build out a zero-carbon energy system. With FERC's help, we can turn this ship around, if we let it.

FERCing 9 to 5, what a way to save the economy. Every day FERC helps make sure that energy isn't just a rich man's game. They have the ability and the authority to bring about this clean energy transition while keeping our energy markets competitive, reliable, and affordable to make sure that your utility isn't just taking without giving.

So why FERC? Couldn't we just do this in Congress?

Well, as long as the Senate prioritizes the preservation of the filibuster over the preservation of the planet, a fully staffed, climate-focused FERC will remain the most powerful, most important, and maybe the only tool we have to get to a low-cost, zero-carbon economy at the pace that the crisis demands.

But let's be clear: Getting FERC fully staffed is necessary but insufficient. Once fully staffed, they have got a lot of work to do. We need new rules to debottleneck our inter-regional transmission system to deliver clean, cheap, and reliable energy to all Americans—and thank you to my friend Senator HEINRICH, and fellow nerd engineer, on that front—to ensure that market rules incentivize clean energy investments to decarbonize our system and lower the cost of energy, even as those investments lower the resulting cash flows; to ensure that the economic gains of zero-carbon energy are equitably shared by investors, by consumers, and by workers; to make sure that long-subsidized but inherently uneconomic fossil fuel plants can transition offline without unduly burdening consumers.

That stuff is really complicated. But the simple and important truth is that we don't have to keep paying too much for dirty energy. We don't have to accept the fossil-fuel-funded false dichotomy between our morals and our wallets. There is a better life, Madam Speaker, and you think about it, don't you?

FERC is the place where we can preserve a livable planet for ourselves, for our kids, for our grandkids. We are all in the same boat; and with FERC's help, the tide is going to come in and it is going to roll our way.

So at the end of Hot FERC Summer, the day after the 21st night of September, thank you to Megan, Fergie, and Dolly for the inspiration, and for helping me ensure that my daughters, however embarrassed they may now be, can inherit a livable planet. Thanks to all who paid attention, helped me prove that FERC is indeed hot enough to warrant this level of attention, and moved us a little closer, a little quicker to a fully functioning Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. And thanks to all the incredibly dedicated

staff at the Commission for all you do FERcing 9 to 5 to protect our future.

REMEMBERING LINDA FISK MORRIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Linda Fisk Morris of Savannah, Georgia, who sadly passed recently at the age of 77.

Linda spent her life serving her community by sharing her love for art and nature.

After moving to Georgia's First Congressional District in 1997, Linda began supporting the Telfair Museums in Savannah, Georgia.

During her career in Savannah, Linda served on the collections committee and helped direct the acquisition of rare works of art for the museum.

Linda's passion for her outdoor life and adventures led her to travel around the world. From the Grand Canyon to the Amazon, her passion for life was undeniable.

Everyone who knew Linda recognized her giving heart and love for her community.

I am thankful for the immense impact Linda had on the Savannah community. I know her legacy will remain.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and all who knew her during this most difficult time.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important diplomatic partnership between the United States of America and the Republic of India.

Visits of our nations' leaders are critical aspects of our relationship, and the United States is honored to welcome Prime Minister Modi.

The United States and India share deep historic ties that are rooted in democracy, freedom, and rule of law.

Over the years, our two nations have increased our trade collaboration which is an important component of our partnership. In 2019 trade in goods and services reached \$149 billion between our countries. Increasing trade between the United States and India will result in greater prosperity for our people.

It is vital that the world's largest democracy has a strong diplomatic partnership with this shining city upon a hill that we have been elected to represent.

Madam Speaker, I thank Prime Minister Modi for being a friend of the United States.

HONORING JONATHAN HOLLAND, II

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Jonathan Holland, II of Brunswick, Georgia, who sadly passed away on August 6 at the age of 73.

Jon had a long, distinguished career in the United States military and as a Federal and State law enforcement official.

After serving in the United States Air Force, Jon worked at the FBI before moving to the Virginia Alcohol Control Board, where he spent the next 34 years.

During this time, he was a first responder at the Pentagon attack on September 11. After assisting on site for 7 days, Jon received a declaration of valor from the Governor of Virginia.

Jon retired in 2003 and began an 11-year career at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia.

Jon's service to his country and Georgia's First Congressional District is extraordinary and will never be forgotten.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

REMEMBERING JOHN ROBERT PADDISON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor John Robert Paddison of Savannah, Georgia, who sadly passed away on August 1 at the age of 98.

Bob dedicated his life to loving and serving both his country and community.

During World War II Bob enlisted in the United States Air Force and served as a pilot. He served in Germany for 18 months, aiding in post-war recovery.

Upon returning to Savannah, Bob worked at the Savannah Bank, where he would work for the next 30 years until retiring as bank vice president.

Following his retirement, he then served his community as a volunteer teacher for DeRenne Middle School, where he shared his passion for photography with his students.

Cherished for his contagious laughter and love of life, Bob's immense impact was felt by everyone he knew.

I am thankful for Bob's lifetime of service, and I know his legacy will be forever treasured.

PRIORITIES OF THIS ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the priorities of the Biden administration because they are not good for the American people.

What are the administration's priorities as outlined by the infrastructure package? It is not roads, bridges, highways, rail, and waterways. Instead, their infrastructure plan is a Trojan horse for a leftist wish list that will jam progressive policies like the Green New Deal through this Congress at the expense of actual infrastructure. Despite promises that this plan would be budget neutral, the CBO has estimated it will increase our national deficit by \$256 billion.

What are the administration's priorities as outlined in the reconciliation bill? It is not fairness, but partisanship. Senator BERNIE SANDERS said that under this budget no middle-income family would pay more in taxes. That is not true. The reconciliation bill includes damaging tax increases, falling largely on the shoulders of middle-income families, small businesses, and family farms. This bill would be the largest tax-and-spend measure in America's history and would increase public debt by more than \$4.16 trillion. It would also allow the Federal Government to intervene even more in our daily lives and kill countless jobs.

What are the administration's policies regarding ag policy? It is not supporting the people who feed, fuel, and clothe all of us, but eliminating their protections and taxing them out of their land. I proposed an amendment on this very issue at the House Agriculture Committee earlier this month that was not even considered by Democrat leadership. I don't want to see farmers and ranchers taxed on their generational property over and over again, which will destroy their livelihoods. This administration demands more taxes, and their party does what it often does and hammers rural America's middle class. Farmers in my district understand perfectly well that the majority party doesn't care about the issues they face while they work tirelessly to keep the breadbasket of our Nation full.

Just yesterday, I spent 2 hours in the Ag Committee marking up a resolution to retroactively designate July 2021 as National Blueberry Month. Now, I like blueberries as much as the next guy, but I stand before you in disbelief that this committee would rather name a portion of the past after a berry than protect the future of farmers in this country. These are backward priorities on full display.

ABORTION BILL IS HORRIBLE

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition for H.R. 3755, which would federally legalize abortions on demand up until birth.

This bill isn't just morally reprehensible. It also prohibits States from passing their own laws acknowledging the humanity of unborn children. It is a wicked path to accomplish a wicked end. This bill would override both Federal and State laws adopted before and even after its enactment. This year, 48 States have introduced a combined 289 pro-life bills, 89 of which have been signed into law. H.R. 3755 does not reflect the voice of the American people on the issue of abortion. It reflects the voice of the abortion lobby.

This bill abolishes any law that regulates abortion in any way, including laws that prevent sex-selection abortion and abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis. By 12 weeks of age, babies have fully formed arms, hands, fingers, feet, and toes and a functional circulatory system and liver, and the capacity to experience